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General and complete disarmament

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2, the General Assembly would:

> "Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 11 (2) of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Second Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000 and, on behalf of States Parties and according to Article 11 (4) of the Convention, to invite States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend this meeting as observers."

2. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 relates to programme 26, Disarmament, and programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. No provision has been made under section 4, Disarmament, or section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for activities called for in the Convention, except those relating to the depositary functions.

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2, the Secretary-General foresees requirements for Secretariat assistance and substantive support services for its implementation.

4. The costs of the Second Meeting would, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention, be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating in the Second Meeting, in accordance with the United Nations scale of

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assessments, adjusted appropriately. At this stage, indicative estimates for the convening of the Second Meeting of the States Parties are not available, since a number of decisions on organizational arrangements have yet to be taken. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that States Parties to the Convention will take a decision, in this regard, based on recommendations that will be made by the Standing Committee of Experts, as agreed upon by the First Meeting of the States Parties. Upon being informed by the States Parties of their decision regarding organizational arrangements, the Secretariat will prepare an estimate of costs for the Second Meeting.

5. Thus, pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, the request that the Secretary-General undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Second Meeting should have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. In this connection, it is noted that the practice followed by the United Nations is to levy a charge, at a rate of 13 per cent of expenditures for such activities, to defray the administrative and other support costs incurred in their implementation. Accordingly, such an expense would also be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein.

6. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practice that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are to be financed outside of the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received, in advance, from the States Parties and States not parties participating in such activities.

7. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.